

## WHERE KING VICE REIGNS.

"Old Bob" Spriggs's Notorious Grand Street Dive.

Pool Room Which Flourishes Under the Noose of the Police.

The oldest house in town. Recorder Smith, who has been in the neighborhood for some time, has been in the neighborhood for some time, and he will tell you that respectable people do not keep the shutters on their windows tightly closed all day, as those on No. 12 are the year round, and then if he wishes to convince you he will call your attention to the mysterious-looking saloon in the basement.

If he makes the proposition go—that is, if you are "doing the town"—and if you go prepared.

If you display any money there, and you are a stranger alone, beware! Only one thing, have nothing to do with the young women who will try and induce you to go upstairs and hear some good music.

Express no surprise at the number of white women who are companions of blacks, and be careful not to speak to any of these women unless they speak to you first, for the blacks are very jealous and the white women like to lash them into fury sometimes.

Observing all these conditions and directions, you may get out without spending or being robbed of all your money.

Robert H., or "Old Bob" Spriggs, as he is always called, is the proprietor of this den, and he opened it twenty-five years ago.

He is a copper-skinned negro. His flesh looks more like that of an American Indian than an African, and in appearance, too, he resembles the red man.

He is tall, straight and a mass of sinews, bones and muscles. He has high cheekbones, piercing, cruel-looking black eyes, and a black mustache.

The tales of cruelty told about him, are almost beyond belief. His son, young Bob Spriggs, was recently convicted of shooting a colored horse trainer named Charles Davis, in the saloon, and when he was sentenced to three years in Sing Sing, Recorder Smith had this to say about the den.

"The place in which your offense was committed," said the Recorder, "is a notoriously bad place; indeed, it has for years had the reputation of being the vilest house in town."

"I do not know," said the Captain of that precinct, "but I do know that there is no good reason why he should have permitted such a vile house to flourish."

Above it is a room which is rented for immoral purposes. Such a trap should not be permitted to exist for a second in any quarter of the city," he concluded.

Old Spriggs has always pulled "a good stroke" with the police. His son, young Bob Spriggs, was his good friend, and when "Lightning Charlie" ruled the Eighth, old Bob Spriggs used to boast that he could have any policeman who bothered him transferred.

Spriggs is reported to be worth more than \$100,000, which he has made in traffic in white women.

During the day there is an appearance of harmless idleness about the place, but after the shades of night have been well pulled down, it gradually assumes an appearance of lively activities.

Young bucks in gorgeous raiment and flash jewelry glide down the short flight of steps leading to the saloon and wander into the foul-smelling, low-ceilinged barroom.

At midnight the place is crowded with black men, white women, and a few white men.

"Jennie" Allen, a comely white woman, is now the owner of the house at 12 Grand street, and it is said that she owns the most of old Bob's property now.

## OUTRAGE ON WORKINGMEN.

A Thousand Laborers Forced to Wait a Week in Line for Pay Due.

Police Called to Protect an Incompetent Subway Paymaster.

A thousand laborers thronged Forty-second street, between Second and Third avenues, to-day, clamoring for the money they earned last week and the week before on the Third Avenue subway job.

There were 1,500 of them Monday morning, and for four days they have filled the street. Only 500 of them have received their pay as yet, though Paymaster Michael Lynch has all this time had plenty of money at his disposal.

The subway was completed last Saturday, and the men were told to come to the little office of Henry Gates, 230 East Forty-second street, Monday morning and get their two weeks' pay.

They have been there every day since from 8 in the morning till 5 in the afternoon, and 1,000 of them are still unpaid this morning.

No, not every day. There was Christmas! Lynch didn't pay on Christmas, and in consequence 1,200 families of these poor fellows went without Christmas dinner and their children went without stockings on the morning of the great holiday.

The men were getting desperate this morning, and they were shouting a cry of youth of seventeen years, sorely needed by his escort of six policemen as he approached Mr. Gates's little office, for there was a man who had been in the line for a week and a half, and threats of violence were heard.

Mrs. John Johnson, who walked down from her home near One Hundred and Tenth street, said carefully: "We have not had a penny in the house the whole week. We had no Christmas cheer, and my little child is sick at home. There is \$10.75 owing to my husband, and he has lost four days from other work this week trying to get it."

Another gray-haired old lady said: "My son, John, is three and a half days' pay coming to him. He supplies the only support for me and my children, and he has been here three days waiting for the money. Yesterday the heavy rain he caught an awful cold, and is very sick to-day at our rooms, 330 Avenue A. It is a burning shame."

"We don't earn too much," said one of the men. "We get it up as fast as we can get it, and I've had to walk down here and back again from One Hundred and Eighty-sixth street every day this week, and I haven't seen my money yet."

Another man walked from One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street and Tenth avenue Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, to-day, and one poor fellow on crutches has hobbled two miles to the office for his pay this morning.

"Why," said one very intelligent man, "John D. Crumrine has 2,000 men on his contract and he pays them all off in three hours on the Saturday afternoon, and except for the family of the man who got paid in two hours. So do those of the Murray Brothers. The trouble is that Mr. Lynch has not paid the money yet."

It was learned that Lynch's method of payment was to pay the men on the Saturday afternoon, and he was to pay the men on the Saturday afternoon, and he was to pay the men on the Saturday afternoon.

Several of the poor fellows are behind for their rent and have been served with eviction notices.

John G. Whalen's family had dry bread for a Christmas dinner and no fire in their humble home this week, yet he has \$31.75 due him.

Henry Gates is sorry he let young Lynch have the use of his office, for he has been serving him as a warehouse for furniture and other goods, and he has been serving him as a warehouse for furniture and other goods.

Howard Terrell, the missing young man whose name is mentioned as having been seen with Miss Cook, is the son of N. L. Terrell, who, under the name of Terrell & Son, do a large trucking business in Water street, this city.

"All I can say is that I don't know anything about this affair," said he. "I have heard that the man was a student, but I have heard that the man was a student, but I have heard that the man was a student."

When he went away he was going to Pennsylvania and expected to return the following day. He was seen this morning in the family of the girl last night, and the story they told me was astounding.

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25 PER CENT.

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We are also showing very extensive assortments of

## CHINA and GLASSWARE

Suitable for New Year's Receptions, at the very lowest prices for strictly first-class and desirable goods.

Bloomingdale Bros., THIRD AVE. CORNER 30TH ST.

GIVES A QUARTER-MILLION.

Magnificent Unknown Donor to the Presbyterian Hospital Building Fund.

President Kennedy Suspected of the Mysterious Deed of Charity.

Smiles are plentiful to-day on the faces of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Hospital. Their brows have been overcast since the recent fire in that institution, but an announcement which cheered them all and is of great importance to the public.

President John H. Kennedy announced to the gentlemen assembled at the house of Heber R. Bishop, 81 Fifth avenue, that a wealthy resident of this city, who refused to allow his name to be made public, proposed to donate to the hospital \$250,000 towards the erection of a new fireproof building, provided that an equal sum was raised among other friends of the institution.

The conditions of this magnificent gift were gladly and unanimously agreed to by the trustees, and arrangements were at once made for securing the second half of the half million necessary for the construction of the new building.

A Express World reporter was unable to induce President Kennedy to disclose the identity of the generous donor, whom he would speak of only as the friend of the hospital. By the erection of the contemplated building, he said, the capacity of the hospital would be tripled.

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The Long Lost Steamer Arrives Unharmed at Barbados.

Important Work for the Legislative Committee Meeting.

Bills to Acquire Site Property to Be Drawn Up.

Now, Whose Wreckage Was It that Was Said to Be Hers?

News was received at the Maritime Exchange this morning that the American steamship City of Kingston, supposed to be wrecked, has arrived safely at the Barbados, where she put in Dec. 5 to take in coal.

Capt. Nichols reported all well and his ship sound, though she had come through a succession of gales.

The City of Kingston left New York for Puget Sound Nov. 18, in command of Capt. Melville Nichols and with the following crew:

W. H. Andaker, Frank Frey, N. P. Van Patten, James W. Clark, H. Walford, Harry R. Day, W. L. Kline, Edward Meier, Wm. F. O'Connor, Asa Tash, James E. Butler, Charles C. Johnson, John H. Hardy and John H. McKean, all of whom hail from New York; Charles Henry Smith, all of Norway; M. Schaefer and Joseph Milton, both of Germany; John H. Hardy and John H. McKean, both of Massachusetts; William W. Green, of Pennsylvania; Thomas Macklin and James H. Hardy, both of New York; and S. A. Cohn and M. C. Hogan, of Maine.

She was loaded with 600 tons of coal for Port Townsend, Puget Sound, by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, which is said to be her owner.

Dec. 3 Capt. Kolstrup, of the Norwegian bark Christy, which was wrecked, sent a raft of white boards carrying the lifeless bodies of two men in latitude 36 deg. 37 min., longitude 73 deg. 33 min. The bodies were found in a small boat, and the wreckage, woodwork and spars, and still later a woman's body with a life-preserver attached to her.

Dec. 15 the British steamer Idrian, of Boston, reported having seen two days before part of a steamer's deck-house, painted white as was the Kingston's.

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